

XXIX.—A Subdivision of the Genus *Uromys*.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE genus *Uromys*, which ranges from the Moluccas through New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to North Australia, has long been known to fall naturally into two very distinct groups. These have been by myself spoken of as the large species allied to *U. macropus* and the small ones allied to *U. bruijnii*. Now, however, in connection with the working out of some New Guinea mammals, I have had occasion to examine them more closely, and find that the differences are such that these groups may very well be treated as genera. In addition, the remarkable species *U. sapientis* of the Solomon Islands would seem also to deserve generic separation.

The three genera may be distinguished as follows:—

- A. Skull with projecting zygomatic plate. Bullæ very small, little inflated. Mesopterygoid fossa broad anteriorly, the palatal edge level with or behind  $m^3$ .
- a. Size large, hind foot 52 mm. and upwards, skull-length 60 mm. and upwards. Tail long, commonly with contrasted white tip. Palatine foramina very short, their length not more than the distance from their hinder end to  $m^1$ . Back of palate behind level of hinder edge of  $m^3$ . Incisors very deep in proportion to their breadth, the depth of the lower ones equalling the combined breadth of the pair. Palate-ridges, where known, consisting of a large number (12 or more) of fine interdental ridges\*, besides the usual pre dental ridges . . . . . I. *Uromys*, Peters.  
 Synonym: *Gymnomys*, Gray.  
 Genotypes of both names: *U. macropus* †, Gray.  
 Range: New Guinea, Aru Islands, and N. Queensland.  
 Species described: *anak*, *aruensis*, *macropus*, *multiplicatus*, *nero*, *papuanus*, *rothschildi*, *scaphax*, *validus*.
- b. Size smaller, the largest with hind foot 43 mm. and skull 51 mm., but the majority far smaller. Tail usually shorter than in *Uromys*, though occasionally long, either wholly black, or lighter below, but not known

\* As figured by Jentink, 'Nova Guinea,' v. pl. xvi. fig. 6.

† Palmer erroneously gives *celebensis* as the genotype of *Gymnomys*; but a reference to P. Z. S. 1867, p. 597, paragraph 5, will show that the genotype is "*Mus mueropus*."

to have an abruptly white tip. Palatine foramina not so short as in *Uromys*, their length approximating to once and a half the distance from their hinder end to the molars. Mesopterygoid fossa broad anteriorly; back of palate about at level of  $m^3$ . Incisors normal, not specially deep in proportion to their breadth, the depth of the lower ones not equalling the combined breadth of the pair. Palate-ridges, where known, consisting of about 5 or 6 interdental ridges in addition to the simple pre dental ones\* . . . . . II. *Melomys*.

Genotype: *M. rufescens* † (*Uromys rufescens*, Alst.).

Range: Melanesia in a broad sense—from the Talaut Islands and Moluccas through New Guinea to the Solomon Islands, and southwards to North Australia.

Species described: *aerosus*, *arcium*, *bruijnii*, *calidor*, *caurinus*, *cervinipes*, *fraterculus*, *fulgens*, *gracilis*, *leucogaster*, *levipes*, *lorentzi*, *lutillus*, *melicus*, *mollis*, *moncktoni*, *murinus*, *musavora*, *muscalis*, *naso*, *obiensis*, *platyops*, *porculus*, *rufescens*, *stulkeri*, *talaudium*.

B. Skull with zygomatic plate scarcely projecting.

Bullæ comparatively large, inflated. Mesopterygoid fossa narrowed anteriorly to a point, which is level with the hinder edge of  $m^2$ .

a. Size of the single species rather large. Tail medium, wholly black. Palatine foramina about as in *Melomys*. Incisors broad and stout, the lower ones not deep in proportion to their width. Palate-ridges not known . . . III. *Solomys*.

Genotype and sole species: *S. sapientis* (*Uromys sapientis*, Thos.).

Range: Solomon Islands only.

### XXX.—New Mammals from New Guinea and neighbouring Islands. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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BY the kindness of Dr. W. K. Dammerman of Buitenzorg I have been entrusted with the examination of the considerable number of Papuan mammals in the Museum under his care, the majority of them coming from recent expeditions to New Guinea, notably that of 1920 to the Mamberano-Idenburg region of N. New Guinea, carried out by Mr. W. C. van Heurn.

\* As figured by Jentink, *tab. cit.* fig. 3.

† Chosen because I happen to be able to check the number of palate-ridges in one of the typical specimens.